



## ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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210689

May 9, 2003

Mr. Bill Bolen  
Chief, Response Section II  
Emergency Response Branch  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
77 West Jackson Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Bolen:

I am requesting the Region 5 Offices of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) assign an On-Scene Coordinator to conduct a time critical removal assessment, assess current site conditions, and determine if possible removal actions are warranted at the North Hartford Premcor Site located in Hartford, Madison County, Illinois.

Hartford is a small industrial community located less than one-half mile to the east of the Mississippi River. Hartford currently has a population of 1251 people and has a history of refining and petroleum related activities dating back to the turn of the 1900's. Hartford is intersected by several pipeline systems for the delivery and distribution of crude oil and refined petroleum products. Premcor is one of several companies that owned and/or operated petroleum pipelines in the Hartford area. In September 2002, Premcor ceased production of petroleum products from crude oil in Hartford. See the attached maps for additional facilities that surround Hartford.

According to Illinois EPA file information, beginning in 1969 house fires and noxious odors were reported in residential homes in North Hartford. Ensuing investigations identified petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel fuel, light oil, and jet fuel floating atop the groundwater aquifer resulting in the contribution of hydrocarbon contamination on top of the water table. Since the hydrocarbon contamination is associated with the water table, the depth to which the contamination varies depending upon the depth to groundwater. As the groundwater table becomes shallower, the hydrocarbons become nearer the surface and contribute to flammable vapor levels and noxious odors within residential homes. Some reports have estimated as much as 3 million gallons of gasoline are still present on top of the groundwater beneath the Village of Hartford.

In an effort to address the issue of vapors in residential homes, Premcor has installed vapor control systems in basements of effected homes. This activity has been undertaken under the supervision of Illinois EPA's Office of Emergency Response.

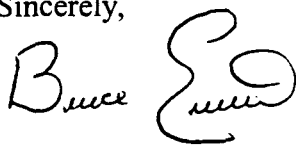
Since the early 1990's, Premcor and other facilities have been operating wells that recover petroleum products from the surface of the groundwater. The operation of these wells has created several "cones of depression" within the Hartford area by drawing the contaminated groundwater toward the recovery wells. The recovery wells have kept the groundwater from flowing in its normal direction, which is to the west. Since Premcor is no longer operating the facility, the pumping rate for their recovery wells has decreased. The current decrease in pumping rates may result in a possible shift in groundwater flow by allowing it to move toward the Mississippi River, which is located less than one-half mile from the contaminated plume of groundwater.

Throughout the investigative history of the Hartford area, there has been a large amount of file information compiled within the Illinois EPA files. This data includes title searches, groundwater investigations, Potentially Responsible Party reports, and other types of investigations. This information will be made available to U.S. EPA upon request.

Before the time critical removal process begins, Illinois EPA recommends that a meeting take place in order to discuss program goals and objectives for this project. At that time, all necessary Illinois EPA personnel can be available to provide necessary background information. Please arrange this meeting as soon as it becomes convenient to you.

As always, the Illinois EPA will provide any assistance to U.S. EPA regarding this matter. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with U.S. EPA in this and future removal activities. I hope to hear back from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce Everetts".

Bruce Everetts  
Office of Site Evaluation  
Division of Remediation Management  
Bureau of Land

bcc: Division File, w/o attachments